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of partial albinism, or a change produced by the modified condition of its food and mode of life.—ROBERT RIDGWAY.

GEOLOGY.

DEEP SEA TEMPERATURE IN THE ANTARCTIC SEA.—In the Report to the Admiralty of Capt. G. S. Nares, of H. M. S. Challenger, dated Melbourne, March 25, 1874, Capt. Nares, speaking of the temperature of the ocean, especially near the pack edge of the ice, says:—"At a short distance from the pack, the surface water rose to 32°, but at a depth of 40 fathoms we always found the temperature to be 29°; this continued to 300 fathoms, the depth in which most of the icebergs float, after which there is a stratum of slightly warmer water of 33° or 34°. As the thermometers had to pass through these two belts of water before reaching the bottom, the indices registered those temperatures, and it was impossible to obtain the exact temperature of the bottom whilst near the ice, but the observations made in lower latitudes show that it is about 31°. More exact results could not have been obtained even had Mr. Siemens' apparatus been on board."

ORIGIN OF THE VALLEY OF THE RHINE.—Geologists intending to travel up the Rhine should by all means read an interesting paper by Prof. A. C. Ramsay on the origin of the Valley of the Rhine, contained in the Quarterly Journal of the London Geological Society (May 1, 1874). He states that the valley during portions of the miocene tertiary period was drained by a river flowing from north southwards, and after the upheaval of the Alps the present river originated and flowed through an elevated plain formed of miocene rocks, leaving the existing plain, "which to the unconstructed eye presents the deceptive appearance of once having been occupied by a great lake."

ANTHROPOLOGY.

EXTENT OF THE ANCIENT CIVILIZATION OF PERU.—Prof. C. F. Hart writes to the president of the Anthropological Society of Berlin, that in a journey to the river Amazon he found some pieces of pottery of which some recall curious forms discovered in Peru, and which prove that the ancient Peruvian civilization extended to the eastern side of the Andes.